## THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

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counteer canvassers, and they are generally homes and faithful; but persons who confide their subscrip tions to them must be their own judges of their ity. The paper will be sent only on the

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from every section in regard to Grand Army, Som of Veterans, Pension, and Military matters, and letters to the Editor will always receive prompt attention.
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JOHN MCELROY, ROBERT W. SHOPPELL, BYRON ANDREWS.

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NATIONAL TRIBUNE HEADQUARTERS.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE Headquarfers at Chicago during the National Encampment will be in Parlot K, Palmer make themselves at home. They can

PRIVATE DALZELL wants it distinctly understood that six months ago he pre-Bicted in THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE that Evans had to go.

In his annual address, the Commander of the Department of Michigan said: "We feel the great importance of the Sons of Veterans and Daughters of Veterans, and they should be encouraged."

THE veterans have more than usual interest in the fate of our Minister to China -Mai, Edwin H. Conger-for he has been an active and enthusiastic comrade of the G. A. R. He was born in Knox Co., Ill., in 1843, and graduated from Lombard University in 1862, when he enlisted in the 102d Ill., serving till the end of the war, rising to the rank of Captain, and receiving the brevet of Major for conspicuous gallantry. He then studied law, graduating from the Albany Law School, and began practicing in Galesburg, Ill., but soon removed to Dallas Co., Iowa, to engage in farming and stock raising. He also went into banking. Nine years later he was elected County Trensprec, and then served two terms as State Treasurer. He served three terms in Congress, and in 1889 President Harrison appointed him Minister to Brazil, President Cleveland retired him, but President Mc Kinley reappointed him, and appointed Chas. Page Bryan Minister to China. Mr. Bryan was not acceptable at Pekin, and an arrangement was made by which Maj. Conger was sent to China and Mr. Bryan to Brazil. Minister Conger has shown great ability and courage in the discharge of his duties thus far.

Evans's contest was summarily disposed of by the Republican National Committee at Philadelphia last week. Evans appeared before the Committee, and made a most earnest appeal for the senting of his followers. His statement of the facts connected with the Tennessee Convention was thoroughly controverted by Representatives Brownlow and Gibson, who claimed that the Convention was entirely regular in all its proceedings, and all the uncontested Delegates-Evans and otherwise-had free access to it, and all their rights. Evans had found himself heavily outvoted at all points, and carried out a predetermined bolt. The Committee took the view expressed by THE NATIONAL THIBUNE at the time, that Evans was a premeditated disturber of the harmony of the party the moment that he found he could not control it, and by a unanimous vote the Committee threw out his contest and excluded his contestees from sents. The only voice heard in his behalf in the whole Committee was a half-hearted proposition from someone to give each side a half-vote, but this did not receive an instant's consideration from the Committee, and the proposer did not seem to ex pect that it would. There was no second to it, and no argument in favor of it Evans is now officially placed outside the breastworks, as he eminently deserved, No man in the country has hurt the Re publican party so much as he.

THE Boers have at last developed a General of some capacity in the person of Commandant Louis Boths, who a year ago was a pale-faced civilian, who probably knew less about war than almost any Posts-only the names of the Posts. The other man in the South African Republic. But he recently fought a two days' battle with Roberts's much superior forces, foiled his flanking movements, extending over a front of 30 miles, inflicted a pretty heavy can citizenship. Those making it must loss on the British, and then safely with- never be exposed to the wrath of the drew his own army, without the loss of a cannon, or any considerable stores or nmmunition. This gives Lord Roberts cause unmolested whither he will with widely whole Grand Army of the Republic. separated and unsupported columns Botha is at last doing what the rebels did at the outset of our war, in keeping advised of his enemy's movements and attacking isolated columns. But he is probably too late to accomplish more than to enable the Boers to end the war with some credit, and possibly better terms.

The Virginia penitentiary guards nee to have their eyes tested. A negro convict blackened his white stripes with ink and walked past the guards to liberty.

COURT OF PENSION APPEALS,

Elsewhere we give the full text of the bill creating the Court of Pension Apin view. To do this it is vitally necesthat its language may be made unmistakable, and its provisions infailibly accomplish the end in view.

The objects to be accomplished by the institution of the Court are:

1. To give every pension on the roll, or to be put on the roll, the authority and sanction of a judicial determination, which will end all cavil at the right of any individual to be there, and satisfy the people beyond question that the money expended for pensions is rightfully given to ersons to whom it is lawfully owed,

2. To remove the pension roll from the the man who at any time happens to be Commissioner of Pensions. The man or woman who has a pension should be made as secure in its possession as the man who receives from the United States a deed to his land, or a patent for his invention.

3. To judicially interpret and apply the pension laws. For seven years now the laws passed by Congress have been the subject of the distorted views of the men who have been Commissioners of Pensions. They have said that the laws meant something totally different from House, and all comrades, their wives and what Congress had in mind when passing families are cordially invited to call and them; they have nullified some very important laws, perverted others, and absomake appointments to meet their friends lutely disregarded still others. It is inthere, and have their mail sent to that room | tolerable that any subordinate, charged with executing the laws, should do this. The Court of Pension Appeals is intended to apply to the Commissioner of Pensions the judicial correctives established for all the other ministerial officers of the Government, but which the Commissioner of Pensions has so far lacked.

The duty before us now is to critically scan this bill, discuss its provisions among ourselves, look for every possibility of failure in any word, phrase or line, to accomplish the ends we desire, and, if this is put the matter beyond any doubt. The passage of the bill will naturally be antagonized by the Secretary of the Interior, whose powers and prerogatives it diminishes; by the Commissioner of Pensions. whom it curbs and restrains, and by that large and influential class who prefer to have the pension business remain as it is, where they can control it, rather than have claims settled in court as a matter of right and justice, and according to a judicial determination of the laws and evidence. The bill, therefore, will be attacked upon its passage, and afterward it will be sought to nullify it. Consequently, we must not only put forth all our efforts to secure its massage, but we must give it all possible study and thought, to make it as perfect as possible, and infallible in securing its ends. We have had too many promising laws turned into Dead Sea apples to run the risk of any more.

And the one special danger that we must provide against is that of the Court dopting the leisurely methods of Courts generally. We want it carefully provided that when the Court adopts a rule or makes an interpretation, that this shall the Commissioner must immediately proceed to adjudicate them in accordance with it. Time is everything to the claimant, and we must secure a rapid clearing a rule, the Court can order the Commissioner to immediately proceed to allow all cases fulfilling those conditions. In any case where he fails to do this within a reasonable time the aggrieved party can bring him into Court, and secure a mandamus. There is no reason why this cannot be done, and substantially every claim now on file in the Pension Bureau settled within a year or two at the most.

The first thing to do is to have every Congressman pledged to push the passage of the bill as soon as Congress reassembles in December, so that it shall become a law before the holiday recess. Let them not juggle about the terms of the bill. The may and probably will be some verbal changes in the bill, but as it stands it is substantially what we want, and what we should demand to have. Secure their pledges to support the bill substantially as it is. We can in the meanwhile carefully discuss the bill, and make any changes in its verbiage that we may decide upon as desirable. Here is the bill to cut it out, paste it upon a large sheet any changes suggesting themselves,

Some of the Posts are hesitating about passing resolutions condemnatory of Henry Clay Evans, lest they expose their members to his vindictiveness in regard to pensions already allowed, or claims on file. It will be noticed that we do not publish the names of the officers of the other copy goes to the President at the White House, Certainly they will not be given up to the Commissioner of Pensions. The right of petition to the Presideut is one of the most sacred of Amerirecreant official of whom they complain. Further, the response will be so general that individuals will be lost sight of, "You ter in every way to act decisively and cannot indict a Nation," said Burke. for reflection. He can no longer march | Henry Clay Evans cannot persecute the

> THE "war" is certainly over in the Philippines. But the islands are fearfully overrun with "ladrones"-robbers and hieves. They have been the scourge of dinchingly. Vaccilation or hesitation will he archipelago for centuries. They fur- be exceedingly costly in the end. dished a large part of the "Malay pirates" of whom we used to read so much. The Spaniards never attempted to more than keep them in check. They will rap idly disappear under the vigorous policy of the Americans, just as the brigands the practical workings of American laws who used to be the curse of Mexico dis- and methods develop the Filipinos will beappeared under the vigorous policy of come the most contented and loyal of peo-

THE CHINESE PROBLEM.

THE gravity of the situation in China seems to increase with every hour, and reals, that every veteran and friend of the the people look for the next telegrams with veterans may carefully study its provis- the deepest anxiety. Whatever may have ons, and all join with us in endeavoring been Russia's original designs, she has to make it carry out the objects we have stirred up a storm that is fearful in its outlook. Just how far the present disturbance sary that the bill have the very best may reach only Divinity can foresee. It may thought of every friend of the veterans, be that it is the long-prophesied "awakening of the Chinese people," when they will begin by overthrowing, massacreing and driving out the ruling Tartar caste. which have dominated the country for over 350 years. The Tartars came into the country and took possession of its Government in 1644. It is estimated that there are about 20,000,000 of these, who rule about 280,000,000 Chinese or 1 to every 19 genuine Chinese. The cry of 'China for the Chinese" may be, and probably is, as much directed against the Tareigners. If this be the case then chaos sport, caprices, and distorted prejudices of has come in China, and will continue until some combination is made sufficient to restore order. The question will then be whether there is anywhere in China any set of men from whom this can be hoped, or whether it will have to come from the outside. There are immense numbers of very able men in China, of non-Tartar blood, but whether any of these have sufemergency may well be doubted. Here tofore no Chinaman has shown any capacity for political and military leadership. This may be because any such man has been promptly cut off by the Tartar rulers. In any other country such a man might be expected to come up in a day from among the common people, as Napoleon did in France, Lincoln in this country, Andreas Hofer in Tyrol, Cromwell in England, etc., etc. But China is an exception to all countries. No rule seems to work there.

If order is to be restored from the out side, then the burden will fall upon the United States, Great Britain and Japan. Germany, France and Italy are too far away to have a strong influence in such a gigantic task as this may become. The experience of the Italian troops in Africa shows them to be of little value in conflict with masses of semi-civilized people found, to make such amendment as will Furthermore, the Italian Treasury is bankrupt and in no condition for the drain of foreign expeditions. France and Germany are not in any condition to send a considerable force that distance from home and supply it. They would have to send everything and everybody more than half-way around the world. Russia is at present considerably in evidence, but she will quickly pass out, if the task becomes one of any magnitude. In spite of her territory adjoining that of China for thousands of miles, and in spite of her Siberian railroad, she is in reality much far ther away than either France or Germany. Her Siberian railroad is not completed, and it would be of very limited capacity if it were. It is a single track, 6,000 miles long, through a country without present resources or settlers, and subject to all the mishaps that a new, badly constructed road through a wild country always is. Even were it in the best possible shape, it would be a very poor dependence for any considerable body of men 6.000 miles away from their country. Another obstacle is in the notorious incompetency and rascality of the Russian army system. It proved atterly unable apply to all cases of that class, and that to take care of an army as near as the Crimea, and again in the Danubian Valley, and probably has not improved since the last Turkish war. Then the Russian troops, when once outside their country, up of the docket. Having once laid down die off at an appalling rate. Russia may have 40,000 men along the Chinese border now. If so, it will puzzle her to muster a good, strong division on Chinese soil in-

side of two months. On the other hand Japan has an army of about 300,000 men, quite near the scene of operations, and supported by a stronger navy than any other power than Great Britain or we can concentrate in Eastern waters. What value the Japanese troops will have for great modern military operations remains to be determined. They showed up pretty well in the war with China, but there was not much test in that struggle.

Great Britain has 74,000 white soldier. in Hindustan, and 150,000 in native regiments. As there is no particular trouble in India at present, she should be able to detach a very strong army for operations in China, and supply it from Hindustan, Australia, New Zealand and her other possessions.

As for ourselves, we can probably spare at once a division from Manila. This in full. Let us suggest to the comrades could be reinforced quickly by any numher of troops from the United States, if of paper, to study it the better, and note they were needed. The Spanish war volunteers could be made readily available, either to take the places of the troops now in the Philippines, or go directly to China. At present writing it seems impossible that we should avoid taking some part in

> the struggle. Our Fing has been insulted, our Minister is cut off from communication with his Government, and may be murdered, with his family, now or at any day in the future; our war vessels have been fired on, have returned the fire, and compelled the surrender of their assailants. Then our immense commercial in terests in China-present and prospective -demand action. We must maintain our prestige there. If we go in, we must go in strongly. It will be cheaper and betstrongly now. Just what can and should be done remains to be determined, but there should not be any half-way business. The more energy we throw into our policy the better it will be in the end. If it is necessary to send a strong army to Pekin we should do it promptly and un-

GEN. MACARTHUR has an eminently correct idea of the solution of the Philip pine question. It is "to plant American in stitutions." He is very sanguine that when



the Haunts.

When Si and Shorty roused the boys to

worst shape of all. He lay, incapable of motion, in the beating hot sun, his eyes closed, his mouth wide open, and his hands and limbs relevant into the land of the land of the leader, "yo' used ter tell we'uns that one o' we'uns could lick when he gets back home."

and limbs relaxed into utter limpness. The corners of his mouth fell into an expres ion of pitiable goneness. Apparently Si might as well have shaken and scolded and tried to infuse animation into one of the rotten limbs of the trees which cumbered the ground.

Alf. Russell's fair, girlish skin had beer

so whipped by the brush, torn by briers poisoned by noxious plants and stung by ir sects that his face, neck and hands were puffed up out of all human semblance and he was so sore that he only replie ficient talents for leadership in such an with a group to Si's directions to rise and Scarcely less distigured, Monty Scruggs

ad also a raging fever. Harry Joslyn's dark skin had bee roof against the ivy and poison oak, and is lithe form had carried him through the brush with less damage than befel his bulkier and more lumbering compar

A thorn had run into Sandy Baker' leg, and Pete was crying over a very pain ful stone-bruise on his foot. Shorty found a sharp thorn, with which he pricked Pete's stone-bruise, giving him some re-lief, and then picking him up in his arms carried him up the hill, and set him down in the shade of the chimney, whither Sandy Baker hobbled and was joined later by Harry Joslyn and Alf Russell, Si and Shorty carried Gid Mackall and Monty Scruggs up, and laid them under the shade of a spreading walnut, break ing bunches of cedar boughs to place un der their heads for pillows.
"That gent," remarked Shorty, pointing

over his shoulder with his thumb at the "when he had meat on him mus ve had to drink water occasionally. And had to have it to wash out his gun, if for nothin' else. So there must 've bin a spring somewhere around here. I'm goin and take a good wash all around, it'll revive us. We must have water anyway, for Monty Scruggs has bin moanin' for

He took a survey of the fall of the ground and the direction one would be likely to go from the door for water, and broke his way through the peach thicket in the direction of the little hollow, where he was rewarded by finding a good spring about the size of a tub, walled up to the hight of two or three feet with rough stones and having a plentiful supply of ear, cool water.

ctter get at the spring and drove away who's bin lavin' out in the weather eachin' for the last coon's age, probably had his faults. He carried his family rows too far, and wasn't lively enough in his skirmish tactics, but he knowed the value of a good spring and took some ins to fix it up. He must 've bin an un and kind of a Georgian to build tha rock wall. The most of 'em are too lazy

He took a good wash in the stream be ow the spring, not forgetting his tired and inflamed feet. He felt immeasurably better for the removal of the grime of their days and nights of hurried travel, and his next thought was to give the rest the benefit of similar relief. I back and carried Pete to the sprin He went he undressed and gave him a thorough

washing and also washed his clothes.
"Taint as good a job by a jugful your mother would 've done," he marked, hanging the garments up on brush to dry, "but it beats nothin' all hol

fully, as he hunted a shade in which to down, where there were no stubs or briers to lacerate his tender naked skin. "I h'aint half so tired now, and my feet don't hart scarcely at all. You beat mother washing. You h'aint no rings on your

He bound a poultice of wet peach leaves around Pete's stone-bruise, which greatly eased his aching little foot, and made Sandy Baker, Harry Joslyn and Alf. Russell arise, go to the spring and wash them-selves and their clothes. Alf. Russell's medical turn took the shape of breaking limbs of a young white oak and using the bark for poultices for their hurts. and they all found great relief from the

eitter astringency. Shorty looked around for something in which to carry up water with which to wash Gid Mackall and Monty Scruggs. Among the decayed household utensils he found a rusty iron pot, whose thick sides had not yet been eaten through, though the bail was long since gone. He imwas long since gone. He improvised a bail out of a hickory withe and patiently carried up enough water to give a good washing to Gid's and Monty's faces, hands and feet. Both were greatly revived, began to show signs of animation, and drank profusely of the wel-

ome cool water out of the rusty pot. In the meanwhile Si had gone do to the big road to watch for Uncle Ephraim and Aunt Minerva Ann. It was nearly moon, and yet the negroes had not appeared, nor could Si find any sign that they had been there. But he felt confithey had been there. But he felt confi-dent that they would come, and taking a seat which commanded a view of the road as far as the spring, he patiently waited

their appearance.

An elderly man came up the road from right, stopped at the grateful sight of the cool water in the sycamore gum, dismounted, knelt down, and took a long drink of the crystal draft, watered his horse, pulled off his hat, wiped his steam-ing forehead, and brushed a bothering fly from his horse. The sound of slow, weakly-moving hoofs came from the other direction. The man looked up, and pres-ently saw coming around the turn five or six rebel soldiers, riding thin, sorely-jaded s. All had bloody bandages about part of their persons, and they sat horses limply.

"Good day, gentlemen," said the firstcomer, who seemed to recognize them.
"Why, what's the matteb, boys? Yo' all seem to 've been having pretty rough

"Reckon we'uns done have, Jedge," re hee cavalry done struck we'uns up at the crossin' of the Ulcofauhachee, 'bout 10 mile from here, and jest mauled we'uns up for Gawd's sake. Bledsoe's cavalry come up ter help we'uns, an' we'uns finally stood they'uns off, an' druv 'em back acrost the river. But hell wuz out thar fer noon, fer awhile, I tell yo', and they'uns made a hull pile o' the boys take the trip. Trussell's cavalry never got sich a lambastin' afo' in all hit's born days. Say, Jedge, yo' done tole we'un afo' de wah that the Yankees wouldn'

"And they won't," said the Judge, pos itively. "Who ever heard of a Yankee fighting? They've hired a lot of Dutch and Irish to come down hyah and do their

Twuzn't no Dutchman nor Irishman what come nigh splittin' my head with his saber. I kin tell Dutch and Irish This one looked all the world like that thar Yanke that come down through our settlement thar."

jest afo' the wah, fixin' cotton gins. And he talked in that same singy way when he said, 'Yo' consurned rebel whelp, I'll let boys an awake, except. Monty Scruggs imitation as he could of a cat-bird's call.

a little daylight into yer musty skull.'

An' he come blamed nigh doin' hit."

"I done heared some o' the boys say hit wux a Michigan critter company that jumped we uns," ventured one of the others. "But I don't keer whar they'uns come from. They'uns wux wuss'n a passeme from. They'uns wux wuss'n a passeme from. They'uns wux every sinnit, I seed the one moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform, through a colored gentleman bread from the cabbread from git no sort o' bead onter him, an' while and told them that the jug contained milk I was follerin' him erbout with my gun fresh from the spring-house.

another Yank peeled me over the head an' "Pete's to have the first choice of the Two Days and Nights More in the Home of the Haunes.

When Si and Shorty roused the boys to remove to the vicinity of the ruined cabin, it was found that their condition was far worse than they had feared. The food had brightened them up the night before, but now they were all in a state of more or less total collapse, as well as each suffering from individual ailments.

They'uns wuz all over the field in the battin' of an eye. When they'uns shall I cut for you?"

I hate to begin eating without Gid Mackall, "said Pete, looking anxiously to seemed a million o' they'uns, fer they'uns award the motionless form and face of Gid Mackall. "Can't we rouse him to eat some? He is so fond of roast pig. He'd enjoy it more'n any of us. He's always talking about the roast pig he'il have

There was an exclamation of delight as swarming flown by an lack a noca of particles produced the corn-bread from the cabnidges? Didn't I done tole yo' all dat
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"A LINE OF NEGROES OF BOTH SEXES AND ALL AGES WITH EVERY EYE AND MOUTH OPEN TO THE WIDEST.

"I may have said something like that then, and I believed it," said the Judge, with reddening face. "And I believe it yet, when there's anything like that it really believe Cid's company of the limbs that the limbs that it is a said that it is a said that I really believe Cid's company of the limbs that it is a said et, when there's anything like a fair

"Well, my place in the company's open his hand, which he inadvertently br ter yo' for some weeks till I git well o' this crack on my noddle. Yo' haint had no 'sperience yit foutin' Yankees. Yo' go up thar an' take my place an' yo'll done —pig?" gaspe up thar an' take my place an' yo'll done
find mouty quick that yo'll have yer hands
plum full downin' that thar one Yankee
who whacked me. I thought that I wuz
quicker'n a cat, but he wuz all 'round me
afo' I could git my gun off. Go up an'
try hit onet, Jedge."

After some more chaffing of the Judge,
giving him the story of the fight in detail,
and informing him that they ware on

and informing him that they were on their way home to get well of their wounds, he rode off, while those of them "Our friend up there," soliloquized who were able to dismount got down pain-Shorty, as he broke down the brush to fully, drank copiously of the water, and handed drinks to those who could not get

out of their saddles.

They soaked their bandages, which were stiff and painful, and finally rode off

toward their several homes.
"Our cavalry only 10 miles off," thought
Si, with a great exultation in his heart. We aught to git to them in a single night, if the boys could only walk. They can't tonight, though. Mebbe they'll be able tomorrow night, if we kin git some-

As the rebels disappeared around the bend in the road, the bushes on the side opposite Si opened to reveal the broad face, surmounted by a turban, of Aunt Minerva Ann. She looked cautiously up tirely clear.

and here I am waitin' for you.' said Si. "Bress de Lord," she ejaculated fer "Didn't de harnts fly away wid yo', nur eat yo' up, nur do nuffin' ter yo' last night?" vently. "Nothin' at all," answered Si. "Didn't

bother us a bit. Haunts know their biz niss. They give Yankees a wide berth, I Gracious me, I wuz so skeered erbout

"Gracious me, I wuz so skeered erbout yo' I couldn't close my eyes. I prayed ter de good Lord Gawd ter take keer ob yo', an' sabe yo' f'om de harnts de last t'ing last night au' de fust t'ing dis mawn-Den I'd git skeered sometimes t'ink in' mebbe yo' wuz harnts yo'selves, jest takin' dat shape ter fool po' niggehs. I talked dat-a-way ter Eph'aim, but he said he was done sho' yo' wuz rayle meat-an'-bone Yankee. Harnts couldn't eat an' drink an' laugh lack yo'uns done, Eph-

he knows some mouty well." "Don't you have any doubts about our ein' real flesh and blood Yankees, Aunty. If you knowed how tired and sore and hungry we are, you'd understand that we were flesh, and mighty weak, suffering

aim's an ole fool erbout most t'ings, but

flesh, as the preachers say, at that. Did you bring us something to eat, Aunty?"
"'Deed I has, honey. I's bin a bakin' an' a-brilin' an' a-brilin' all de blessed mawnin' ter git sumfin fer yo' all. I had ter get my ole man's dinner besides, an' take hit out ter him. Den I had ter sneak hit all past de oberseer an' de big house but let Aunt Minervy Ann alone fur dat. Dey all t'ink demselves powerful cun-nin', but dey've got ter git up mouty airly an' git cotched, sho. He's splay-footed wid his mind same's he is wid his feet. He had no mo' gumption in his feet dan a mud-turkle. I got de vittels right back dar, an' I'll done bring 'em ter you'. Keep yer eye peeled fer folks a-comin'." She presently reappeared with a splitbasket on her head and a gallon

hickory basket o jug in her hand. Bring it right over here, Aunty,' alled Si from his side of the road.
"No, sah," she said, most decidedly "Nary a step will yo' git me on dat side ob de road. I'm jest as nigh dem harnts as I's a-gwine.

Very well, I'll come over there for it." Si glanced up and down the road to see that all was clear, and then crossed to the other side. He found that the jug contained milk from the spring-house, and in the basket covered with cabbage-leaves were corn-dodgers, still hot from the oven,

and a roast pig.
"Jest t'ink," said Aunt Minerva Ann,
as Si gloated over the viands, "I ackchelly done went an killed one ob dem lubbly leetle shoats, an' roasted hit—all fer dat leetle teenty Yankee. I done hated or-fully ter do hit, fer I'd sot my heart on raisin' dem shoats, but I rassled in pra'r ober hit, an' hit seemed ter me dat my lights tole me dat I wuz layin' up treas-ures in heaben, where de moth don't corrupt nur de thieves break in an' steal If hit hadn't 'a bin fer dat leetle teenty boy I wouldn't 'a done hit. I could see his eyes all de time. Yo' must gib him a hine-quarter and some ob de spare-

"He shall have them, Aunty, and I never kin thank you enough for this. If you live a hundred years you'll never do anything better'n this. The Lord'll re-ward you for it, if we don't. We'll be ack here, I hope, in a few weeks, with the army, and I'll see that you get re-warded for it."

"Good-by, now. Take mons'ous good seer ob dat leetle teenty Yankee, an' let keer ob dat leetle teenty Yankee, an' let him had all de nice parts of dat pig. Me n' Eph-aim 'll come ober dis ebenin' ome time, an' bring yo' some mo' vit-els. Be on de look-out fer us. Squall cat-bird ter let we'uns know yo're

claimed Pete, running over to him, with a piece of the fragrant ham of the pig in near Gid's nose as he stooped down to the cabin. "Who-said-any-thing-about-roast

-pig?" gasped Gid, slowly opening his

Both he and Monty aroused sufficiently to partake of a share of the food.
"It's useless to think of goin' on tonight." said Si, sadly, after they had finished cating, and he had told of the nearness of the Union cavalry. "I'm just crazy to get on, but we can't march, and that's all there is of it. We must stay here at least until tomorrow, and cooper ourselves up. Do, boys, rest all you kin, and get yourselves in shape to move." But neither he nor Shorty could take

his own advice. The nearness to the Union lines excited them far more than anything which had occurred since they had left prison. They tried to set the boys the example of lying still and resting, but in vain. The moment they would lie down and close their eyes, the very deathlike stillness of the place would make them fancy they heard in the dis-tance the roar of cannon and the patter of musketry, and they would spring up, and strain their eyes toward the north, to confirm their ears. The little films of white vapor that lay lazily along the northern horizon they were sure were clouds rising from a battery in action. Minerva Ann. She looked cautiously up and Si reminded Shorty how much they the mountain side, in the advance upon

Far to the north, and standing out in bold relief above the waves of mountains, towered a lofty dome of naked granite, which they knew must be Stone that loomed up before them when with Sherman's army advancing upon Atlanta. This added to their excitement, and Shorty even waxed to that pitch that he could distinctly make out Old Glory floati g from one of the shoulders of the

"Do lay down and rest. Shorty." av postulated Si. "You'll wear yourself plum out, and break down just when you need strength most. need all your strength to help pull the boys through. You go lay down, and I'll go and shin up that tall tulip tree there, and take a good survey o' the coun-

try."
"I'll go lay down for a couple hours, on the agreement that you will then. You're the one that ought to be restin'. You're doin' more hard work than I am, and you're not near in as good shape to stand it. Now, remember, you're not to

let me sleep more'n two hours."

From the top of the stately tulip tree, which rose fully 150 feet above the ground, Si had a splendid view of the surrounding country. He could make out camps in the open ground, and see thin columns of smoke rising from where others were located in the woods, and was sure that some banks of red earth far stew. Each was jealously exacting that away to the left were breastworks and Pete should eat and enjoy some of her forts. Some of those tinges of color here and there in the hazy horizon were cer-tainly flags. Were they Union or rebel? and the mawning ter git shead ob me. Ephle would give years of his life to know,
le wouldn't let him. He'd spile ebberyt'ing cated him so that he forgat the of time so that the afternoon was more than half gone, when he heard Shorty calling from the base of the tree: "Here, Si, come down and lay down, git some rest, and let me come up there.

What do you see?"
"I think our army's layin' right over there at the foot of Stone Mountain," said Si, almost breathless with interest and excitement, as he slid down the trunk, and "There's luts o stood beside his partner. "There's lots o' camps over there, and I thought several imes I could make out our flag, and see

blue uniforms."
"Well, go and lay down, and let me go up and watch awhile. I kin see further'n you, anyway," answered Shorty, with vis-ible excitement. "Monty and Gid seem much pearter'n they did at noon, and all the boys are livelier. Mebbe if we make them rest and nurse theirselves we kin start out o' here tomorrow night." Again Si tried to lie down and go to

eep, for he felt mortally tired from his long perch in the tree. But the moment he closed his eyes his ears rang with the murmur of distant cannonading and mus-ketry. Then he felt that he must arise, ketry. Then he felt that he must arise, look the boys over, and see what he could do to make them fit to travel. Those who could walk he took down to the spring for another thorough bath, and he acted on Alf Russell's idea of making poultices for their hurts of white oak bark. He gave Monty and Gid a good washing, and was grateful to find signs of

marked improvement.

Then he busied himself breaking down brush to make them beds for the night, only allowing them to help moderately, in order to reserve their strength for other demands upon it.

Shorty did not come down till after ark. He had waited to see the campfires twinkling among the trees, and se confirm his daylight observations of the location of the camps. He was more excited than Si had been, for he was that he had distinguished several U flags in the distance, and had recognized headquarters banner by its shape one of the spurs of Stone Mountain. Si and he went down to the road to look for Uncle Ephraim and Aunt Miner-

and Gid Mackall, and quite anxious about Instantly it seemed as if the woods on the him. Monty's fever had abated, after his bath, and he had failen into a heavy sleep. Gid Mackail was also asleep, but was also asleep, but looked less alarmingly like death than his morning slumber.

Instantly it seemed as it the woods on the other side were full of cat-birds, and as side were full of cat-birds, and as a rush through the bushes on the opposite side, and a line of negroes of both sexes and all ages broke cover, and came

out with every eye and mouth open to the whar in less'n a minnit. I seed the one what busted Bill hyah slash Jeb Wilson's head off with his long sword, then whack Tate byah, an' break his arm, an' then Tate byah, an

> hyah's a great secret, hit am."
> "Please, Uncle Eph'in, I wanted to see de Yankees my own self, wid my own

"I didn't belieb yo' rayly had any Yanees, ho, ho, -an' I wanted ter see whed-er yo' wuz dreamin' as yo' jinerully is." "Jest le' me sot my eyes on dem once, n' I'll go right straight back."

in' ter eat, too. Don't be hoggish erbont yer Yankees, ncle Eph'm. We am has got jest as ood a right for see um, an' help um, as o' has," were among the expressions hat made up the chorus in reply to Uncle

Ephraim's protest.
"Jist lack dat ole fool Eph," said 'Nervy Ann. to Si and Shorty, who had crossed the road to her, while Ephraim was bust-ling around among the rest. "He never kin keep nuflin' ter hisself, so he can't. He wuz so big wid his secret dat he had ter take ebbery niggeh on de place off ter ter take ebbery niggeh on de place off ter one side an' tell him, an' den make him promise ter keep his seeret. Hit'll be a Gawd's mercy if dey don't hyah ob hit up ter de big house. Better take all dat dey've done brung yo', an' shoo dem away lack scat. How's de leetle Yankee?"

"He's doin' very well, thankee."

"Tm jest a-dyin' ter see him agin. All de wimmen folks is. Being him does to

de wimmen folks is. Bring him down ter-morrer mornin'. I'll had him sumfin' nice ter eat. Hist, I t'ink I hear some one comin' down de road. Git de t'ings f'm dose folks, an' shoo dem away."

The others caught the alarm, and rap-idly passing their gifts to Si and Shorty, sappeared in the brush. Each one had rought something—corn dodgers, sweet outloes, bits of their bacon rations, etc., and one contributed a good-sized water

Si and Shorty had only time to gather their stock back into the brush and cronch down, when a man and woman rode by from some neighborly visit. from some neighborry visit.

Including the watermelon Si and Shorty
found that they had much more than they

ould carry.
"I've never bin a Black Abolitionist," re never bin a Binck Adomicionist, said Shorty, surveying the accumulation, "but I am the blackest kind from this minute. Think o' them poor people taking so much o' their grub, and they haint any too much, to give us. We'd be skunks if we didn't fight to free them. Hereafter I'm goin' to be browner than old John Brown ever was. You hear me." They had to make two trips, and call

in the services of Harry Joslyn and Sandy Baker to get all their food up to

In spite of Si and Shorty's misgivings, Monty could eat ravenously of the watermelon. When he woke up the next morning his fever was entirely gone. They were all very much better, but in spite of Si's eagerness he could see little hope that they would be able to march that night. Gid and Monty were so weak that they could scarcely walk to the spring and back, and Pete could not set his foot to

the ground without great pain.

After a thorough wash all around, and fresh poulticing, Si and Shorty climbed the tall tulip-tree for an anxious survey of the ground. of the country.

The view was even more exciting than the day before. They could actually make out moving troops, and much nearer than yesterday. But they seemed to move with such inordinate slowness. The only way that it could be told that they were moving at all was by the clouds of dust, and seeing the clear spot in the road lengthen out behind them. It was much too far to tell to which side the troops belonged, and Si and Shorty scouted each other's guesses as to this or that sign. They were both too eager to believe the thing they hoped for, to have much confi-dence in their own judgment. The blazing sun overhead - at length reminded them that it was noon, and they must go to the road to meet Aunt Minerva Ann.

"We must carry Pete down to her," said Si. "Her heart is set on seeing him, and it won't do to disappoint her.

bin too good to us. "I'll carry him down and back." "No you won't, Si Klegg," said Shorty with jealous asperity; "nobody carries that

boy but me."

They found 'Nervy Ann waiting for them, with two of her particular cronies, whom she had let into her secret. They went into raptures over Pete, and ished endearments upon him, until his face was redder than Shorty's. They could not pity his sore foot enough, and with much pitying crooning unbound and replaced the bandages in a way that Pete, in spite of his loyalty to Shorty, had to confess was much more comfortable than his methods. They pleaded to be allowed to take Pete home with them and nurse him, and get him away from the harnts which they were sure were responsible for his troubles, as well as those of the rest of the boys. The great wonder was that any of them were alive. But Si nor Shorty would consent, and Pete was equally resolute. Aunt Minerva Ann was going straight home, to make a bread-and-milk poultice, but they feared to wait for her. They must go back to the cabin and the tulip-tree. Aunt Minerva Ann then produced another jug of sweet milk, and from her capacious bosom brought forth some boiled eggs. One of the other women had brought a broiled chicken, and the other a crock, containing a hare

gift before her eyes.

The partners hurried back to their tree The sight from there thrilled them to the marrow. The troops were certainly advancing, and they were cavalry. Moreover, they must be Union cavalry, there was another body of cavalry hying up the road to meet them. But the distance made the movements of each seem slower than the crawling of snalls. The hours were away toward sunset before the two bodies came into each other's presence. Then the partners saw the little puffs as the advanced guards encountered; they saw long lines of puffs stretch-ing across the open ground as the skirmshers came together, and finally aw the Union cavalry rush toward nemics, and scatter them in a wild harge. They strained their eyes to follow the movements of each, but they dis-appeared in the timber, and darkness pres-

ntly closed down. The excited partners climbed down and went back to their boys, and looked them over anxiously. But even their sanguine eyes could not see the slightest hope that they could travel a mile that night. They sadly resigned themselves to the inevit-

sadiy resigned themselves to the inevitable, and made their preparations for spending another night there.

After getting the boys made as comfortable as possible, Si and Shorty sat and talked the matter over interminably, speculating as to what cavalry they had seen, with each having his opinion as to the particular regiment that had gotten that for and made that quick decisive that far and made that quick, decisive charge, and whither the raid was likely

to extend. At length fatigue overpowered them, and they lay down beside the others and went to sleep.

It was broad daylight when Si was awakened by a sharp kick in his side, and

the stern command:
"Hyah, yo' Yanks, wake up that and arrender!"

He sat up and looked about.

The man who had kicked him, a rebel efficer, stood covering him with a large About him were eight or 10

revolver. About him were eight or rebel cavalrymon, with carbines leveled. "Kick them other fellers an' wake em," commanded the officer to his men. I've hearn tell so much 'bout the harnts at ole Dan Harpster's cabin," he said to Si, "that I concluded that I'd visit the place and find out 'bout 'em. I thought I'd ketch some layers out or hoss thieves, though. I didn't expect a lot o' Yanks. Whar in the world 'd you'uns all comt from?"

(To be continued.)